Bihar Government's scheme to stop water logging

4117. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar recently forwarded to the Central Government a scheme to stop water logging;

(b) if so, when the scheme was received by Government; and

(c) whether Government have considered the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The project report on drainage in the irrigation commands of the Gandak and Kosi projects in North Bihar has been received in July, 1987 only.

Assistance to Scheduled Caste families in Orissa

4118. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the number of Scheduled Caste families assisted by the Scheduled Castes Development Corporation in Orissa so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): 95,470 Scheduled Caste families have been assisted under Marg'n Money Loan Programme by the Scheduled Castes' Development Corporation in Orissa during 1980-81 to June, 1987.

Over employment in Haldia Fertilizer Project

4119. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which published in the daily Patriot of the 25th June, 1987 under the caption "All Pay and No Work" regarding Haldia Fertilizer Project;

(b) whether it is a fact that Haldia Fertilizer Project employed 900 odd employees without any work; and

(c) whether Government have appointed any Expert Committee to inquire into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Although the commissioning activities of the project have been stopped since October 1986 due to frequent breakdowns, other activities relating to maintenance, preservation of the plants and equipments, administrative and financial matters, etc. are continuing as usual, with the result that the employees are kept occupied with some work or the other, though not related to the operation of the plan.

(c) Government did appoint a Technical Committee to quantify the requirements of funds for the preservation of the plant, spares etc. until commissioning is resumed.

Shortage of edible oils

4120. SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) how edible oil short was in the country during the last three years, with year-wise figures;

(b) the quantity of edible oil imported during the above period, year-wise;

(c) what is the expected short fall for the current year;

(d) the quantity of edible oil expected to be imported; and

(e) whether any long term policy has been envisaged in case of edible oils and if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The average shortfall of edible